

BOSE McKINNEY & EVANS LLP

2700 First Indiana Plaza
135 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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7/3/02
A Cowan

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: 8266-0823 }
Applicant: Eckstein, et al. }
Invention: HYDRAULIC CONTROL }
APPARATUS FOR A }
HOSPITAL BED }
Serial No.: Unknown }
Filed: Herewith }

Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. 1.10

Express Mail No.: EL592236834US

Date of Deposit: February 28, 2002

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Angelina J. Whitlock

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Angelina J. Whitlock

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified patent application submitted herewith, applicant respectfully requests entry of the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-20.

21-39

Please add new claims 1-19 as follows:

*Rule Subj 21
1.126 21
Amend*

A valve assembly for a hospital bed, including:
a manifold having an inlet, an outlet connected to a device for positioning the bed, and a conduit in fluid communication with the inlet and the outlet;

a valve having a portion movable within the conduit between a first position inhibiting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet, and a second position permitting fluid communication between the inlet and the outlet;

a lever connected to the valve to permit manual movement of the valve between the first and the second positions, the lever being located entirely outside the conduit; and